

1. (original): A thickening composition comprising
(a) 10-50 % by weight, based on the total composition (a) + (b), of a crosslinked hydrophilic water soluble or swellable liquid dispersion polymer and
(b) 50-90 % by weight, based on the total composition (a) + (b), of a crosslinked polymer or copolymer of an unsaturated carboxylic acid in powder form.
2. (original): A composition according to claim 1 wherein component (a) is an anionic polymer.
3. (original): A composition according to claim 2 wherein the anionic polymer is the polymer of an unsaturated carboxylic acid.
4. (original): A composition according to claim 3 wherein the anionic polymer is poly(acrylic acid) or poly(methacrylic acid).
5. (currently amended): A composition according to claim 3 ~~or 4~~ containing the polymer of an unsaturated carboxylic acid wherein 55-90 % of the carboxylic acid groups are in the form of an alkali metal salt or ammonium salt.
6. (currently amended): A composition according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein component (b) is made by precipitation polymerization.
7. (currently amended): A composition according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein component (b) is a crosslinked poly(acrylic acid) or a crosslinked poly(methacrylic acid).
8. (currently amended): A composition according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 containing additionally (c) a hydrophobic liquid.
9. (original): A composition according to claim 8 containing mineral oil or paraffin oil as component (c).
10. (original): A composition according to claim 8 containing 40 to 80 % by weight of component (c), based on the total composition (a) + (b) + (c).
11. (original): A printing paste ~~prepared by using~~ comprising a thickening composition according to claim 1.

12. (original): A printing paste according to claim 11 containing at least one dye.
13. (currently amended): A printing paste according to claim 11 ~~or 12~~ containing at least one reserving agent.
14. (currently amended): A printing paste according to claim 11, ~~12 or 13~~ containing at least one agent to protect the print against the action of chlorine.
15. (currently amended): A process for the multicolour jet-printing of textile materials, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the material is printed with an aqueous printing paste containing dyes and a thickening composition according to claim 1.
16. A process according to claim 15, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the pH of the aqueous printing paste is ≤ 5 .
17. (new): A printing paste according to claim 12 containing at least one reserving agent.
18. (new): A printing paste according to claim 12 containing at least one agent to protect the print against the action of chlorine.
19. (new): A printing paste according to claim 13 containing at least one agent to protect the print against the action of chlorine.